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MOVIN' ON OUT

West Philly residents will have to leave a subsidized building in Spruce Hill after their affordable housing developer says it was left with no choice but to sell. 6-7

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5 THINGS TO KNOW

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SAM NEWHOUSE, REPORTER

In rapidly gentrifying sections of Philadelphia, most people agree that more affordable housing is a benefit the city needs. But when a subsidized West Philly building was recently sold and its tenants told to leave, it came as a surprise to some that the developer was not a for-profit real estate group, but a nonprofit affordable housing developer. Some tenants are angry and others are resigned to the situation, but the developer says they have no other choice. Read more inside and on **MetroPhilly.us.**

1 Trump, Pelosi agree on State of Union Feb. 5 date

President Donald Trump and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi have agreed Trump will give the annual State of the Union address on Feb. 5, following her postponement of the event from Jan. 29 because of the partial government shutdown, a spokesman for Pelosi said on Monday. In a letter to Trump posted by spokesman Drew Hammill on Twitter, Pelosi invited Trump to give the speech in the U.S. House of Representatives. Democrat Pelosi had spoken with the Republican president and they had agreed on the date for the nationally televised address, the spokesman said. The annual speech is given by the president to outline the administration's priorities for the coming year. The partial government shutdown ended on Friday after 35 days, paving the way for the speech to go ahead. The White House had considered alternative venues than the House.

2 New doc on Jackson 'public lynching,' family says

The family of Michael Jackson on Monday described reaction to a new documentary about alleged child sex abuse by the late singer as a "public lynching" and said he was "100 percent innocent" of such accusations. The statement followed the premiere at the Sundance film festival on Friday of "Leaving Neverland," in which two men, now in their 30s, say they were befriended by the "Thriller" singer and sexually abused by him starting from when they were 7 and 10 years old. The documentary received a standing ovation at Sundance on Friday, Variety and other entertainment media reported. It will be shown on cable channel HBO and Britain's Channel 4 television network this spring. Jackson, who died in 2009, was acquitted at a 2005 criminal trial in California on charges of molesting a different, 13-year-old boy, at his Neverland ranch.

3 Facebook announces plans to integrate WhatsApp, Instagram and Messenger

The logos of messaging applications WhatsApp, Instagram and Messenger are displayed on the screen of an Apple iPhone on Monday in Paris. The big new project of Mark Zuckerberg, founder of social network Facebook, is to unify all its messaging applications, according to The New York Times. So all the applications of Facebook, Messenger, Instagram and WhatsApp could work together, the exchanged messages would be encrypted as they are currently on WhatsApp. "We are working to ensure that more of our messaging is encrypted end-to-end and we are thinking of ways to make it easier to communicate with family and friends via all networks," said a Facebook spokesman, confirming news reports from The New York Times. Facebook's three messaging services each claim more than one billion users worldwide.

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4 Five police officers shot in Houston, suspect down

Five Houston police officers were shot on Monday as they attempted to serve a warrant, according to officials and local media. Their conditions were not immediately disclosed. The site of the shooting was still an active crime scene, Houston police said in a message on Twitter, warning people to avoid the area. A suspect in the shooting was down, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said in a message on Twitter. The policemen were shot as officers from the Houston narcotics division served a warrant, the Houston Chronicle reported, citing an unnamed law enforcement source. One of the officers was airlifted to a hospital, Houston Police Officers' Union president Joe Gamaldi said in a separate tweet. Four officers who were shot were also hospitalized, Houston police said in a message on Twitter.

5 Cohen to testify at closed House hearing Feb. 8: Panel

President Donald Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen will testify on Feb. 8 at a closed hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, the panel's chairman said on Monday. Cohen, who is set to go to prison in March after pleading guilty to crimes including campaign finance violations during Trump's 2016 election campaign, had expressed concern about testifying because of threats against his family from Trump. "Mr. Cohen has relayed to the Committee his legitimate concerns for his own safety as well as that of his family, which have been fueled by improper comments made by the President and his lawyer," committee chairman Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff said in a statement announcing Cohen's appearance.

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"Dangerous, life-threatening cold air" to descend upon the Mid-Atlantic region: NWS

The U.S. Midwest and Northeast were braced for dangerous subzero temperatures this week, as the polar vortex was set to blast arctic conditions unusually far south, the National Weather Service said on Monday.

The system was set to extend from the Dakotas through New England, with Chicago expecting temperatures to plunge as low as minus-25 degrees Fahrenheit overnight Tuesday into Wednesday, the weather service said.

The polar vortex — the frigid winds that circulate around the North Pole — is extending further south into the Upper Midwest, said weather service meteorologist Brian Hurley.

"If you live up in the Arctic Circle, you'd say this is pretty normal. When it's actually brought down to this level, that's when you know it's something serious."

Brian Hurley, NWS meteorologist

"If you live up in the Arctic Circle, you'd say this is pretty normal. When it's actually brought down to this level, that's when you know it's something serious," Hurley said in a telephone interview.

Blizzard conditions are predicted across parts of the western Ohio Valley and snow is expected Tuesday through Wednesday from the Great Lakes region into New England, the weather service said.

Snowfall will occur in the Dakotas, Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota; and in Central Michigan, where a foot or more of snow is expected, the weather service said. Upstate New York, Vermont and New Hampshire will see less than a foot of snow, and Boston will get less than an inch.

Chicago will take the main brunt of the supercold weather, with widespread heavy snow already affecting the area on Monday, the weather service said on Twitter. Wind chills as low as minus-50 were also expected by Tuesday evening through Thursday morning.

The service's Des Moines, Iowa, branch said "dangerous, life-threatening cold air" will hit the Midwestern state from Tuesday morning through Friday morning, with wind chill values on Wednesday likely to range from minus-45 to minus-55 across the northern part of the state.

More than 600 flights into or out of Chicago O'Hare International Airport were canceled Monday morning and nearly 300 flights were delayed, according to FlightAware.com. More than 200 flights at Chicago's Midway International Airport were canceled, but only about seven flights were delayed.

Delta Air Lines Inc. said it would waive flight change fees for passengers affected by the winter weather in Chicago, Detroit and areas of the Upper Midwest. REUTERS

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Subsidized housing sold off in gentrifying Spruce Hill

A subsidized apartment building is changing hands, raising new concerns about affordable housing in West Philly.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Tenants of a subsidized West Philly building are all bracing to leave the street that they have called home, on Osage Avenue near 46th Street, just a few blocks from bustling Baltimore Avenue and Clark Park in the Spruce Hill neighborhood.

Some have lived in this property, The Arvilla, a 16-unit building at 4537 Osage Ave., for more than a decade, others just for a few years. Some are fine with leaving by the deadline of Jan. 31, but others are not.

"We wanted to live there because it was a nice neighborhood and our neighbors were nice," said former Arvilla tenant Wanda Levan, 48. "But when they wanted to sell it, they just up and threw us out." Levan herself left the building voluntarily a few months ago, but she said the situation wasn't voluntary for her former neighbors. "That was devastating, to hear that. You've been here all your life, and pay your rent on time, and it's affordable housing, and — up! You gotta go. And not only you gotta go, but you lived under the conditions they have."

Levan mentioned issues like lack of heating, trash pickup, bug infestations and unfixed leaks as among those tenants had to deal with.

But these conditions are also a big part of why Mission First Housing Group, a nonprofit dedicated to affordable housing, says it has no choice but to sell The Arvilla.

"The costs to modernize and preserve affordable housing in this building are higher than Mission First can cover with its limited resources and current outside funding," Mission First says in a statement on its website explaining the sale. They say proceeds from The Arvilla sale will go toward developing more affordable housing units elsewhere in the city.

But nonetheless, as news of the sale and tenant relocation from this diverse but rapidly gentrifying section of West Philadelphia spread, neighbors began organizing on behalf of the tenants.

"It is contrary, totally contrary, to the founding mission of that organization and the reason that those properties were purchased in the first place."
Dennis Culhane, UPenn professor

"The more we talked about the situation, the more angry I got about how the residents were being treated," said Mary McGettigan, a neighbor who participated in organizing efforts. "Some of them were given as few as six weeks to move out. That's the type of treatment you expect from a slumlord, and not from a nonprofit that says it's supposed to be taking care of these people."

Mark Deitcher, senior

Arvilla tenant.

VP of Business Strategy at Mission First, said the organization "made some mistakes in communication." But they later extended the time frame for residents to move, provided relocation assistance and moving costs, and helped all tenants find new homes, while repair was not financially possible, Deitcher said.

Deitcher said Mission First sought funding to repair The Arvilla through a development plan that included 24 new affordable housing units at 46th and Spruce. But after that project was sunk by a neighbor's threats of legal action, they lost all the funding and were not able to fund necessary repairs to The Arvilla, he said.

But that explanation still doesn't justify the sale, some say.

"I think it is appalling," said Dennis Culhane, a UPenn professor of social policy and practice. "It is contrary, totally contrary, to the founding mission of that organization and the reason that those properties were purchased in the first place."

Culhane pointed out that 1260 Housing Corporation, the real estate development arm of the Philadelphia Mental Health Care Corporation, paid for The Arvilla in the early '90s as subsidized housing for people with mental health issues using state funding released in relation to the deinstitutionalization of Byberry Mental Hospital in Northeast Philadelphia.

"They intentionally sited those buildings so that they would offer maximum community integration and that means socioeconomic integration," Culhane said. "It's fine if they want to go out and add to the supply and purchase new units, but they should not be removing affordable units. ... I think it's an abrogation of their mission and their responsibility and the public purpose for which they were founded. They aren't 'Mission First.'"

But Deitcher defended the organization's choice as ultimately contributing to Philly's affordable housing stock.

"I understand the concerns of the community, I understand why they don't want to lose this particular building as affordable housing. But we are also looking at this in the context of an incredible affordable housing need in the city of Philadelphia, and we are growing to meet that need. In this case, we may agree to disagree, but we think the best decision to support the mission of affordable housing in the city of Philadelphia is to sell this building and do other work that we're doing to preserve and build anew."

All told, Mission First controls 1,850 affordable housing units in Philadelphia, 1,050 of which are for tenants with mental illnesses who receive subsidized housing through the city's Department of Behavioral Health. Those include 60 units at the Mid-City YWCA in Rittenhouse Square, and 16 at Freedom Village in Francisville.

"I'm sure they're doing a lot of good things for a lot of people, but some things seem to be falling through the cracks, in terms of their operational model, and this building is one of them," said Jean-Jacques Tiziou, a neighbor who participated in community organizing efforts at The Arvilla. "The Arvilla should never have been left in such disrepair and so neglected."

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Mueller probe 'close to being completed': AG

However, William Barr hasn't pledged to release the report in its entirety.

Robert Mueller. GETTY IMAGES

Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. election is close to wrapping up, Acting U.S. Attorney General Matthew Whitaker told reporters on Monday.

"I've been fully briefed on the investigation and I look forward to Director Mueller delivering the final report," he said at a press conference on U.S. charges against China's Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd.

"Right now the investigation is, I think, close to being completed and I hope that we can get the report from Director Mueller as soon as possible."

Whitaker's comments mark the first time a top government official with knowledge of the investigation has publicly confirmed the probe is in its final stages.

Media outlets have reported that Mueller's office could be close to issuing a final report on his investigation.

But Mueller has been tight-lipped about when the months of closed-door grand jury sessions and criminal charges will conclude, leaving questions over how far into the White House his probe will reach and what will happen to his findings.

Mueller's investigation most recently ensnared a longtime confidant of President Donald Trump, political operative Roger Stone.

Others in Trump's orbit have also been charged in the probe, including Trump's former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, his former campaign deputy, Richard Gates, and his former national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

Trump's nominee to fill the attorney general post permanently, William Barr, recently pledged to make public as much of the report as possible, saying Mueller is required to file it confidentially.

But Barr has declined to pledge to release Mueller's report in its entirety, saying that some portions might need to remain confidential, such as decisions not to charge certain individuals.

Russia denies any wrongdoing in the 2016 election. Trump has repeatedly said he was not involved in any collusion with Russia and has often referred to the probe as a "witch hunt." REUTERS

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Shutdown costs pegged at $3B as government reopens

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The U.S. economy was expected to lose $3 billion from the partial federal government shutdown over President Donald Trump's demand for border wall funding, congressional researchers said on Monday, as 800,000 federal employees returned to work after a 35-day unpaid furlough.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) said the cost of the shutdown will make the U.S. economy 0.02 percent smaller than expected in 2019. More significant effects will be felt by individual businesses and workers, particularly those who went without pay.

Overall, the U.S. economy lost about $11 billion during the five-week period, CBO said. However, CBO expects $8 billion to be recovered as the government reopens and employees receive back pay.

The longest shutdown in U.S. history ended on Friday, when Trump and Congress agreed to temporary government funding — without money for his wall — as the effects of the shutdown intensified across the country.

Republican Trump had demanded that legislation to fund the government contain $5.7 billion for his long-promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. He says it is necessary to stop illegal immigration, human trafficking and drug smuggling, while Democrats call it costly, inefficient and immoral.

A committee of lawmakers from both major parties were to hold their first open meeting on Wednesday as they try to negotiate a compromise on border security before the Feb. 15 deadline.

The CBO estimated the shutdown reduced gross domestic product in the last quarter of 2018 by $3 billion.

It said that in the first quarter of 2019, the level of real GDP is estimated to be $8 billion lower than it would have been, citing "an effect reflecting both the five-week partial shutdown and the resumption in economic activity once funding resumed."

Trump said he would be willing to shut down the government again if lawmakers do not reach a deal he finds acceptable on border security. On Sunday, he expressed skepticism such a deal could be made, putting the odds at 50-50.

Trump has also said he might declare a national emergency to get money for the border wall. Democrats would likely challenge that in court.

The CBO report serves as a stark warning to Trump against another shutdown, Democratic lawmakers said.

"Families across the nation are still trying to recover from a month of missing paychecks and overdue bills, but the president is already threatening a second shutdown if he doesn't get his way," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said.

Most employees should be paid by Thursday for back pay, which one study estimated at $6 billion for all those furloughed. Contractors and businesses that relied on federal workers' business, however, face huge losses, although some lawmakers are pushing legislation to pay contractors back as well. REUTERS

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Snapchat weighs what was once unthinkable – permanent snaps

The changes could trigger a privacy concern backlash.

Snapchat app is seen on an Android mobile phone. GETTY IMAGES

Snap Inc. is considering changes to its Snapchat app, known for disappearing photos and videos, that could make users' public posts longer-lasting or even permanent, people familiar with the matter said.

The company is also weighing an option to reveal the identities of Snapchat users who make public posts, a person familiar with Snap's plans said.

Together the changes would mark a big step in Snap's effort to lure and keep users by making public content more available outside Snapchat. They could also create a new revenue source for money-losing Snap, which has seen its user base shrink and executives flee the company.

But such changes to Snapchat, which launched in 2011 and became an instant hit among teenagers and millennials, could trigger backlash from users who cherish their privacy, especially as rival Facebook Inc. has been plagued by scandals over how it handles user data.

Snap is carefully weighing the privacy, technical and legal considerations of revealing user identities on public posts, said the person familiar with Snap's plans.

Only Snapchat photo and video content shared publicly by users would be affected and users have the option of deleting those stories, said the person.

Snap has already extended the shelf life of public stories, but making them last even longer or revealing more about the users who create them would be a further departure from Snapchat's hallmark features.

Snap declined to comment.

The changes would come in response to feedback from Snap's four partnerships with news discovery platforms that help media companies spot, analyze and republish public breaking news content on Snapchat, sources said. Reuters is a customer of SAM Desk and NewsWhip, two of the news discovery platforms.

Snap announced the partnerships last year and will sign four more deals in the near future, said the person familiar with Snap's plans.

Initially, public stories would disappear after 30 days but now remain viewable for 90 days, according to Snap's support website.

Some partners have said that the disappearing and anonymous nature of public stories makes them difficult to work with, the sources said.

Some news organizations will not embed Snapchat stories into articles because the content eventually disappears, while others will not use them because they are unable to verify anonymous users' Snapchat videos.

One source familiar with the news partnership said Snap is already talking with one partner about making public posts last even longer and to make some content from celebrities permanent.

LUCRATIVE BUSINESS

Snap's stock has been under pressure as investors question the company's plan to reach profitability. Snap shares on Friday closed some 60 percent below their March 2017 initial public offering price.

Making user content more valuable for partners has helped boost revenue at Snap's rivals.

Twitter was one of the first social media platforms to sell access to public posts or tweets and reported $108 million in third-quarter revenue from non-advertising businesses like data licensing, its fastest-growing division. REUTERS

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— **Mark**, *Metro New York reader*

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THE GOVERNMENT IS BACK IN BUSINESS... FOR NOW

While many of us still have grievances about how things are going in Washington, one thing that we can all agree on is that the government being (temporarily) reopened is a really good thing. 800,000 federal employees are heading back to work this week after missing two paychecks, and that is reason enough to rejoice. Let's just hope it doesn't happen again...

Please remember to send your Humbles to **humble@metro.us**. These submissions can be acts of gratitude, positivity or kindness that you have seen throughout the day.

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Concentrate on what you can do and aim to make improvements not only for you, but for causes you care about. Offering your services will lead to greater opportunities.

Taurus Don't lose sight of your goal, regardless of what others do or say. You will feel better if you are physically productive. Trying to reason with someone will end in a dispute.

Gemini Personal and professional changes can be made if you take action and make things happen. Look for innovative ideas, and collaborate with people.

Cancer Don't be fooled by someone trying to dump his or her responsibilities in your lap. A partnership will be challenged if you aren't specific regarding what you will and will not do.

Leo Discuss your ideas and plans with interesting people. A relationship will develop with someone who has similar plans and life goals.

Virgo Live up to your promises at home or you will be faced with criticism and complaints. Being productive will encourage others to pitch in and help. Avoid indulgent situations.

Libra Focus on implementing doable changes instead of wasting time on something that will never happen. Physical fitness and proper diet will improve your health and attitude.

Scorpio Don't let someone mess with you. Listen to what's being said and question anything that doesn't sound right. Your intuition will not let you down.

Sagittarius Consider the goals you have yet to complete, and do something that will get you moving in a direction conducive to fulfilling your dreams, hopes and wishes.

Capricorn Problems with institutions or government agencies will crop up if you neglect to file paperwork on time. Walk away from situations that appear to be unstable.

Aquarius If you call in favors and get together with a colleague you collaborated with in the past, you'll open up options that will lead to solid prospects. Romance is on the rise.

Pisces Helping others is admirable, but don't take on or promise more than you can deliver. It's best to say less and do more than to fall short. Protect your reputation. EUGENIA LAST

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What surprises are in store for this year's big game? GETTY IMAGES

What Super Bowl surprises will drop on Sunday?

Studios and streamers are known to drop surprise ads during the big game.

ANDREW HUSBAND
drew.husband@metro.us

During last year's Super Bowl, Netflix dropped a surprise teaser for the sci-fi horror film "The Cloverfield Paradox." The prequel to the "Cloverfield" and "10 Cloverfield Lane" films began streaming as soon as the game clock came to a stop. While the streamer's nonexistent advertising campaign ultimately paid off, the movie still received poor reviews from critics and audiences alike. So this begs the question: Will the Super Bowl 2019 commercials hold any similar surprises?

That all depends on whether Netflix and other entertainment industry bigwigs still think previewing new titles is worth the millions of dollars these commercials cost. Sure, "The Cloverfield Paradox" may have been a ratings blunder, but Nielsen independently claimed that 785,000 viewers tuned in to see what the movie was all about following Super Bowl LII. The three-day haul for the title was around 2.8 million. Without official numbers from Netflix, however, it's difficult to know how accurate this is.

Then again, official numbers or not, it probably doesn't matter. Netflix's big gamble possibly got nearly a million people to check out a new title that hadn't been advertised before it began streaming. They most likely considered this a win, as did streaming competitors like Hulu and Amazon Prime and traditional broadcast and cable outlets. (Not to mention the movie studios that regularly advertise upcoming summer blockbusters during the big game.)

Rumors about the Netflix "Cloverfield" movie had been running rampant by the time Super Bowl LII came around. But what about this weekend's game? Will any of the Super Bowl 2019 commercials reveal the first teasers, trailers or announcements for another surprise movie or show from Netflix or its streaming competitors? So far, Ad Age is reporting that none of the big streamers have purchased any advertising time during Sunday's game.

However, Amazon is teasing something called the "Beta Testing Program" that will undoubtedly involve the use of multiple celebrity cameos. Whether they'll be using these commercials to tease any Amazon Prime titles remains to be seen, but the more curious case is that of Disney's undisclosed number of ad buys for Sunday. This could mean just about anything, from another "Avengers: Endgame" or "Captain Marvel" teaser to a first look at "Star Wars: Episode IX."

Or, the Walt Disney Company might be using some of its Super Bowl 2019 commercials to begin pushing its previously announced Disney+ streaming service. The Netflix competitor is already boasting confirmed and rumored original programming from Lucasfilm and Marvel Studios, so who knows? Maybe Sunday's telecast will finally confirm some of these rumors or present audiences with new footage from the next big streaming outlet.

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The new Beer Garden at Parx is now open. PARX CASINO

Midnight in the garden of *beer* and wine

Parx Casino's new Beer Garden is now open.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

It's no secret why Parx Casino is known as a staple in the Philadelphia area. From a state-of-the-art concert venue and plethora of enticing bars and restaurants to plenty of slots and table games where anyone may just get lucky, this casino knows how to get people partying. Now, Parx is debuting its indoor-outdoor Beer Garden to really seal the deal as one of the top entertainment spots near the city.

Some may think opening a beer garden during the winter may seem a bit counterproductive. Typically, the beer gardens in the city pop up during the warm months and are gone as soon as a chill in the air breaks. But that's the beauty of Parx's new indoor-outdoor venue. The winter months can be enjoyed with an ice-cold beer and friends out on the two patios featuring lush greenery, modern furniture and 10-foot-long firepits. The main area features huge windows and plenty of space, so it doesn't feel like you're trapped inside. Plus, the Beer Garden is an amazing destination for any sporting event. Guests can place their bets on the sports betting kiosks while catching the game on two giant LED TV walls.

The best part? When the spring and summer months do hit, the entire state-of-the-art glass roof and glass walls will retract, allowing Philadelphians to enjoy the sun rays and mild temperatures comfortably.

The new Beer Garden is massive, boasting 4,000 square feet inside for the main bar and dining room and 3,600-plus square feet for the two outdoor patios. The menu is just as big as the space, featuring 24 rotating craft drafts, 14 wine options, specialty cocktails, a full bar and exceptional food from the chefs at the adjacent Liberty Bell Gastropub and Oliveto. Savory menu items include Short Rib Poutine, an array of flavored Jumbo Wings, Lobster Roll, Prime Rib Sandwich, Calamari Salad, Clay Pot Crispy Fire Shrimp and much more.

The vibe and atmosphere of the place really tie the already-impressive amenities up with a bow. The mix of outdoor and indoor spaces, the corrugated metal back wall featuring custom-cut colored bottles, the custom retractable motorized roof and side doors, aluminum and bronze planters, natural teak wood furniture, Edison exposed bulb fixtures and 10-foot-long copper firepit make this event space extra-special.

Parx Beer Garden will be available for large group events including buyouts and event rentals. The Beer Garden is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, and open Wednesdays and Thursdays, 4-11 p.m.; Fridays, 4 p.m.-2 a.m.; Saturdays, noon-2 a.m.; and Sundays, noon-10 p.m. Free self-parking and valet are available, and happy hour will kick off in two weeks, from 5-7 p.m.

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SugarHouse thriving in the early going

The Fishtown casino had a monster first month of operations.

MIKE GREGER

Mike Greger is a veteran sports journalist in Philadelphia.

GETTY IMAGES

Only in Philadelphia can you place a bet on your favorite team, with a side of whiz.

The new sportsbook inside SugarHouse Casino was rocking on a recent Thursday afternoon as dozens lined up to get their bets in. There were diehard fans in Eagles knit caps and cocktail waitresses in referee outfits wielding black trays and offering complimentary bottles of water — and, for those bettors needing some liquid courage, 100-ounce draft beer towers for $20.

Want a cheesesteak? Text or call your server. There is an outpost of the landmark Geno's Steaks around the corner, just don't forget to specify whiz.

"We wanted to create an entire game day experience here," says Evan Davis, vice president of SugarHouse Casino. "This is a place where people can watch and wager on sports, not just wager. We were the first sportsbook in Philadelphia to launch, and that was a special thing for us because there are passionate people in Philadelphia and they are especially passionate about sports."

The sportsbook has been packed since opening its doors to legalized sports gambling on Dec. 15, with bettors putting money on virtually anything: totals, parlays, in-game wagering and wacky prop bets. (This writer placed an ill-advised bet on Golden Tate to score a touchdown in the Eagles' 20-14 playoff loss. Oh well.)

SugarHouse is open 24/7 and ticket windows take bets until 1 a.m. on weekends. In addition, there are 24-hour betting kiosks.

"We've been continuously busy since we opened," Davis said. "Look, it's 4:30 on a Thursday and there is a line. It's great for us, and great for people who want to wager on sports legally, and great for the state of Pennsylvania to generate tax revenues."

SugarHouse hopes to become a "premier destination" for marquee sporting events, such as the Super Bowl and March Madness. They also want to attract European soccer fans who don't have many options for watching hard-to-find overseas games, like the Premier League. Those games, with their weird start times at 8 a.m. or earlier in the United States, are rarely shown at area bars and restaurants.

"The feedback has been unbelievable," says Davis. "We're getting all kinds of sports fans, not just hardcore Philly fans."

How to bet on sports: Introduction to basic sports betting **terminology**

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editorial Director of MetroBet.

One of the more exciting aspects of now having legal sports betting in Philadelphia is that many people will be betting on games for the first time. Having a few dollars riding on the Birds or the Phillies or that random Monday Night Football game just makes things that much more fun. For you first-timers out there, here is some sports betting lingo and basic terminology that will have you ready to win big!

Cover

When you beat the spread by the required number of points. If you pick the favorite in the game, you "cover the spread" when you win by more than the spread. If you pick the underdog, you win by winning outright or by losing less than the spread. For example, if the Eagles are four-point favorites and win by seven, they "cover the spread."

In-game bet

When you bet on a game while the game is being played.

ATS

(Against the Spread) Instead of a team's win-loss record, it refers to how well a certain team has done in terms of the spread over the course of their season. For instance, the Eagles are 5-1 against the spread in their last six games.

Parlay

When you bet on multiple teams in one bet. To win, you have to have all the teams you bet on cover the spread. Payouts can increase dramatically if you hit on a parlay.

Moneyline

A bet where you only need the team you bet on to win, regardless of the spread.

Hedging

When you bet the opposite of your original bet to minimize a potential loss.

Push

When the result of the game lands on the betting number. You don't win or lose, you simply get your money back.

Futures

A bet based on how well a certain team does for the whole season. For instance, the Phillies have 14/1 odds of winning the 2019 World Series.

The spread

The number of points a certain team is favored by. For instance, the Eagles are four-point favorites over the Cowboys. The spread is four points.

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The Rams are this year's Eagles

Expect L.A. to take down the bully Patriots.

GLEN MACNOW

Glen Macnow is a renowned sports talk radio voice in Philadelphia on WIP. He is the host of the Eagles official pregame show.

GETTY IMAGES

We've seen this story before. Second-year whiz-kid coach leads his young team to a Super Bowl, only to run into Bill Belichick's so-called unbeatable dynasty. The tyro coach's defense is anchored by a pocket-crushing franchise tackle. His quarterback is asked to match Tom Brady, throw for throw, touchdown for touchdown.

The upstart team is given little chance by the experts.

Yeah, we've seen this story before — just last season, as a matter of fact. That time, as you recall, Doug Pederson's Eagles beat the Pats, 41-33.

This time, Sean McVay's Rams will do it again. The Evil Empire is, indeed, crumbling, and anyone smart enough to take the 2-1/2 points this Sunday will be rewarded.

As an Eagles fan, I remember the dismissive approach the football geniuses had toward any possibility my team would win last February. Hell, Cris Collinsworth was joyfully predicting a Brady Comeback Miracle right up until the moment that last Hail Mary attempt fell harmlessly to the ground.

This year's Rams carry a similar pedigree to the Eagles — maybe even a little better. Aaron Donald is a notch superior than Fletcher Cox as that disruptive defensive tackle. Donald and the Rams defense, ably coached by Wade Phillips, will rattle Brady on Sunday.

Part of the Pats' mystique is their aura of invincibility. Teams facing them this time of year often seem intimidated from the opening coin flip. Hey, the Pats have been here before — eight times, in case you missed hearing that the first 10,000 times it's been mentioned.

Foles and the rest of the Eagles weren't overwhelmed by it all. They played it like Buster Douglas vs. Mike Tyson: Punch the bully in his face and you've destroyed his illusion of invincibility.

Speaking of punching them in the face, that'll be the job of Todd Gurley and C.J. Anderson. The Pats have been great against the run in these playoffs, but I'm not buying it. In the five games they lost this season, New England allowed 152 rushing yards per game. (The Eagles rushed for 164 in Super Bowl LII.) Gurley (who vows that he's healthy) and Anderson will do the same next Sunday.

It's going to be close and tense — just like last year. And the underdogs are going to win — just like last year. I'll call it Rams, 31-28.

Sports on TV Highlights

7:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Kansas at Texas	ESPN
7:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Northwestern at Maryland	FOX SPORTS 1
7:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Georgia at Arkansas	ESPNU
8:00 pm	**NBA Basketball** New Orleans Pelicans at Houston Rockets	TNT
9:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Kentucky at Vanderbilt	ESPN
10:30 pm	**NBA Basketball** Philadelphia at LA Lakers	TNT

Sixers vs. Lakers betting preview

The undermanned Los Angeles Lakers (26-24) look up against it on Tuesday night as the Sixers (32-18) pay a visit to the Staples Center.

L.A. has clearly missed the presence of LeBron James, who has been out for 16 games with a groin strain. The Lakers are 6-10 without the four-time former MVP. Lonzo Ball (9.9 points per game, 5.4 assists per game) wrenching his ankle against the Rockets last week, which will sideline him for four to six weeks, is just another crushing blow to L.A.'s playoff hopes. Kyle Kuzma (19.1 points per game), who missed his team's 116-102 win over the Suns on Sunday, has a hip strain and is questionable for Tuesday's matchup against the Sixers.

Cheat sheet:
If you bet on the Sixers to cover against L.A. and they win by six points or more, you win!

Philly exits a 16-point loss to the Denver Nuggets, but there's reason to believe they will rebound, starting with the return of Jimmy Butler. The All-Star shooting guard was held out of three straight games due to a sprained wrist but is expected to return to the lineup on Tuesday night.

The Sixers are 10-4 against the spread in their last 14 games following a straight-up setback, and have covered in seven of their last 10 games off a loss against the spread. Furthermore, Philly is 21-8 against the spread in their last 29 games against Pacific Division opponents, while the Lakers are 5-15-1 against the spread in their last 21 matchups with Eastern Conference foes.

ROBERT CRISCOLA

VSiN DAILY LINE

NBA

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MILWAUKEE -6 AT DETROIT

CHICAGO AT BROOKLYN -8.5

WASHINGTON -7.5 AT CLEVELAND

OKLAHOMA CITY -6 AT ORLANDO

NHL

PHILADELPHIA +140 AT NEW YORK -120

WINNIPEG +140 AT BOSTON -120

CBB

TENNESSEE -9.5 AT SOUTH CAROLINA

MISSISSIPPI STATE AT ALABAMA -1.5

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BASK IN THE GLOW ONCE MORE, EAGLES FANS

THE SPORTS PROFESSOR

GLEN MACNOW

@RealGlenMacnow

Here's a little advice, Eagles fans: Savor this coming week. Enjoy every day. Remind yourself and your friends that, hey, our favorite football team is still the reigning Super Bowl champion.

Because on Sunday, of course, that all changes.

It's going to be particularly painful to watch Super Bowl LIII between the upstart Los Angeles Rams and New England's Evil Empire. Perhaps at the beginning of the game, CBS broadcaster Jim Nantz will make a perfunctory statement that the teams are playing for the title now held by the Birds (I promise you Tony Romo won't give us a nod). But after that . . . it will be like our greatest day as sports fans never existed.

We'll be old news. The forgotten son. The ex-wife.

So follow my lead: Pull on your Nick Foles jersey, flip on the "Philly Special" highlight video one more time and race outside to see if you can gather the neighbors for a quick "E-A-G-L-E-S" chant. Maybe that'll help.

Hey, it's not like we didn't see this day coming. I remember feeling a depressing emptiness that October night in 2009 when the New York Yankees supplanted the Philadelphia Phillies as baseball's new champs. But at least the Phils were in that World Series trying to defend their crown. (Sheesh, Pedro Martinez, why didn't you let the manager know you had the flu?)

This season, the Eagles reeled from a massive Super Bowl hangover before rebounding late to give it a decent shot. But, let's be honest,

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GETTY IMAGES

they never displayed the mojo that carried them in 2017. So we won't get to enjoy drowning in confetti on Broad Street a week from Tuesday; more likely, forecasters say, we'll be covered by an inch or two of snow.

All of this is not aimed to depress you. Rather, I suggest you try to remember all the great moments from a year ago: Foles' calm under pressure in taking down the monster, Brandon Graham's clutch strip sack of Tom Brady and Jay Ajayi churning for important yards.

In part, make sure to recall those moments because all of those players will likely be gone soon. So, too, might be Darren Sproles, Jason Peters, Chris Long, Jordan Hicks, and Ronald Darby. Pro Bowl guard Brandon Brooks may miss all of 2019 because of a torn Achilles.

The Eagles face a tumultuous off-season – and I'm not even including that hand grenade of a story last week that called Carson Wentz selfish, egotistical, a poor tipper and nasty to puppies. Truth be told, that journalistic tripe will be long forgotten when the real news begins.

GM Howie Roseman will have his hands full. Whether you want to call it rebuilding, retooling or refueling, this franchise has challenges at several key position groups. Start with running back, offensive line, defensive line and secondary. Wentz's future contract will also be a thorny issue.

Roseman and right-hand man Joe Douglas have performed off-season magic before. They're going to have to do it again.

All of which just shows how tough it is to get to the Super Bowl, let alone win the damned thing. So when you're moping through next Sunday's game (by the way: Rams win), buck up. Reminisce about all the fun from just a year ago. Don't let the euphoria that carried us through 2018 just slip away forever. Take one last moment to celebrate how great it all was.

Hey, we'll always have the dog masks.

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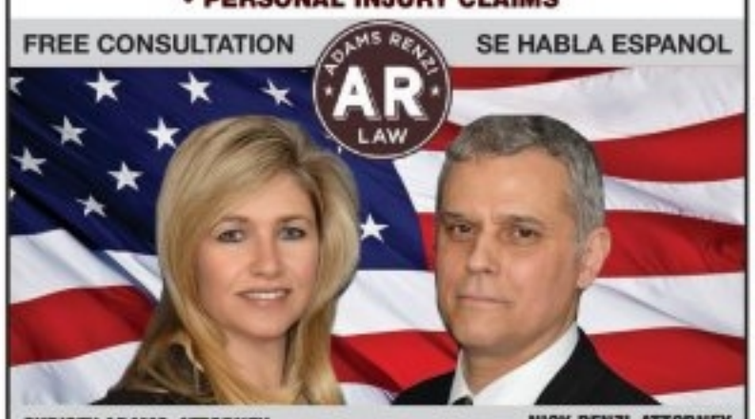

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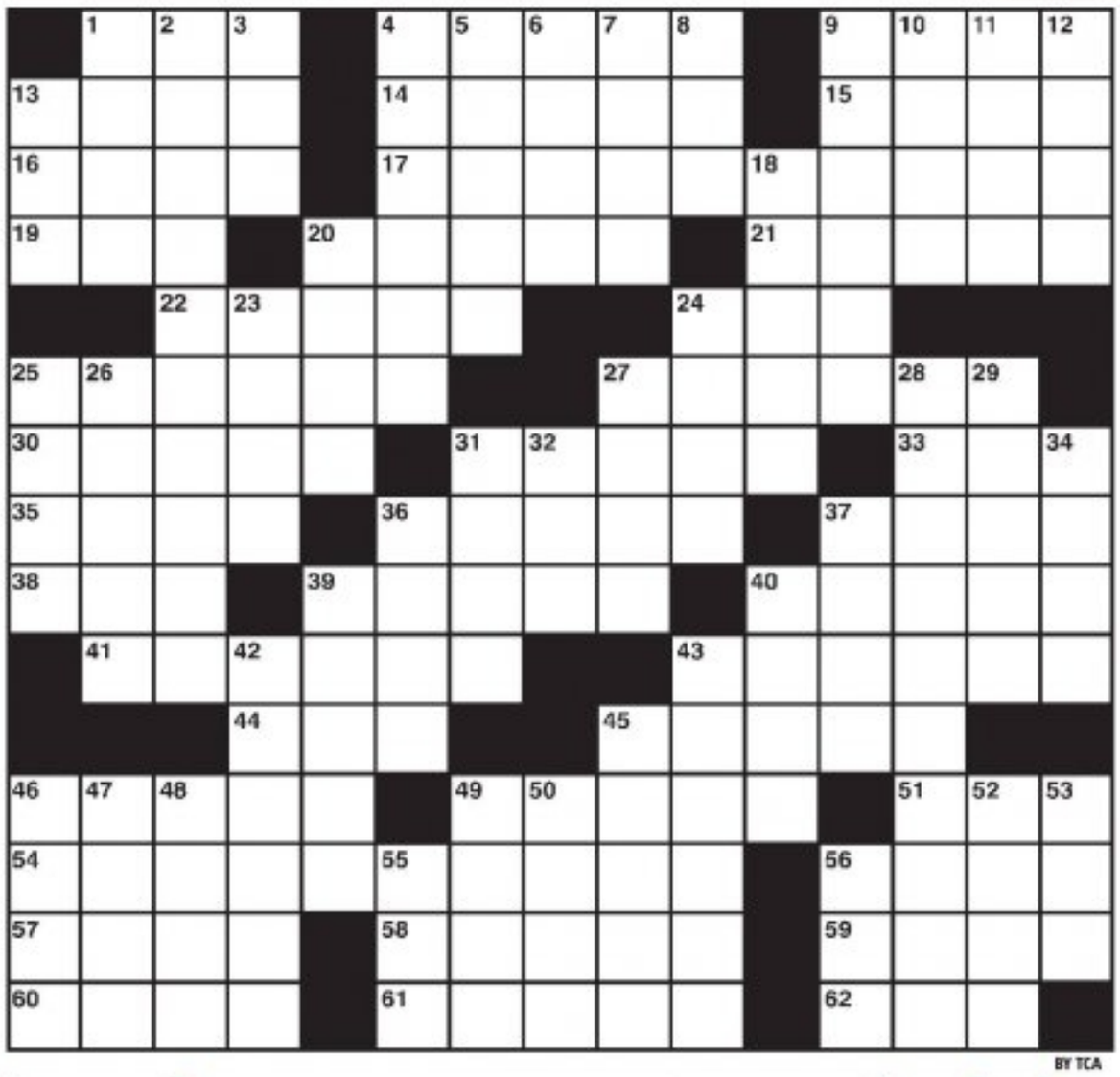

BY TCA

ACROSS

1 __ off; steal from
4 Concluded
9 Loafer, for one
13 Bylaw
14 Safe's partner, in phrase
15 Wee
16 Sword handle
17 Vehicle
19 __ rampage; raging
20 Stengel or Affleck
21 Performed
22 Window covering
24 Floating zoo?
25 Ransack; destroy
27 Dusk
30 Martini garnish
31 Puts on weight
33 Big kahuna, for short
35 Rx label info
36 Entice
37 Actor Wilder
38 That woman
39 Wild felines
40 Sudden forward rush
41 Lets in
43 Rich oil well
44 Thirsty Frenchman's need
45 Largest artery
46 Not rural
49 Bisect
51 "Absolutely __!"; firm refusal
54 Not excessive
56 June 6, 1944
57 Chutzpah
58 Refueling ship
59 NFL officials
60 TV show award
61 Astronaut John
62 Linear measures: abbr.

DOWN

1 Spoil
2 Foolhardy
3 Flea collar wearer
4 Get away
5 Lasso's loop
6 Sand mound
7 One of the 7 deadly sins
8 ...FDR, HST, __, JFK...
9 Piles
10 Helpful suggestion
11 __ more; again
12 "Brown __ Girl"; 1960s song
13 Greek letter
18 Tales
20 Actor Nicolas
23 __ about; praise highly
24 Female relation
25 Curtain holders
26 Lanai greeting
27 Uses a straw
28 Fair; impartial
29 Slight coloring
31 Jewels
32 "I __ Rock"; Simon & Garfunkel hit
34 Look through a keyhole
36 Ballerina's skirt
37 Strong wind
39 Stringed instrument
40 Artificial fishing bait
42 Skimpy; meager
43 Reign
45 Steve or Tim
46 Encourage
47 Enlarge a hole
48 Soothing ointment
49 Wicked weather
50 Qualified
52 Clumsy fellows
53 Cobb & Burrell
55 Eggy drink
56 Help with the dishes

metro.us/wordsearch

L	H	Q	G	I	G	M	P	E	B
J	B	D	H	E	Q	O	A	L	N
X	U	K	O	D	U	S	T	G	E
S	S	O	R	C	I	P	T	G	W
W	E	I	E	R	Z	K	E	O	P
C	M	M	T	O	I	G	R	B	U
I	A	E	W	P	N	D	N	O	Z
G	T	R	I	V	I	A	D	T	Z
O	H	C	R	A	E	S	F	L	L
L	A	T	R	O	P	I	F	Y	E

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Category: Film

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	I	C	E	U

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7	9		5				6	4
	5	4	1	8			7	
1				7	5	2	4	
		3				7		
	6	7	3	2				8
	7			1	4	6	9	
9	4				3		8	2
8			2	6		4	3	

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P	O	I		P	I	N			E	L	O	P	E	D
		M	O	A	N	S			W	A	R			
T	R	I	V	I	A			T	I	D	B	I	T	
R	I	D	E	R		P	R	U	N	E		M	O	O
A	S	A	N		B	E	I	N	G		S	P	A	N
P	E	T		S	U	E	D	E		N	O	O	S	E
	R	E	C	T	O	R			C	O	A	S	T	S
			L	A	Y			L	A	I	R	S		
I	M	P	A	L	A			A	D	S		I	D	O
T	O	R	M	E	N	T	E	D		E	B	B	E	D
C	L	O	P		C	O	A	L		S	A	L	A	D
H	E	W	S		Y	O	R	E			R	E	D	S

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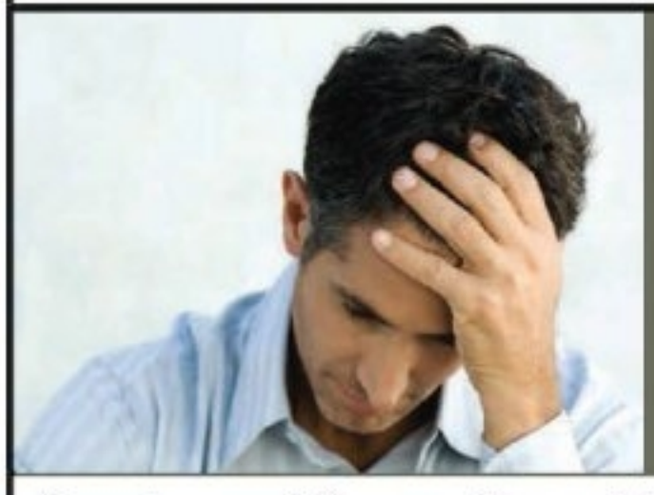

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